

ADOLESCENT & FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER[®]



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Director: Herbert Jay Rosenfield, ACSW, LCSW, BCD

RE: HB 7292, "An Act Concerning Social Work Title Protection"

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Public Hearing: March 2019

From: Herbert Jay Rosenfield, LCSW, of Cheshire, CT

As the Director of our 39-year-old outpatient private mental health practice and a CT Licensed Clinical Social Worker, (LCSW#: 000189) and Certified School Social Worker (#: 32180), I am pleased that this bill is being raised at your March Public Hearing.

Unable to attend in person due to advance-scheduling of our client-services, I wish to submit this emailed letter as my testimony in support of the importance of social work title protection and my concern regarding the current form and wording of the Bill 7292.

The wording of the current bill before you is faulty, having the *exact* same problems HB 7198 did, because it limits the title protection to only those of us who have achieved Connecticut licensure. It is my professional opinion -- and it is the intention of the support and sponsorship of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers -- to include and cover those colleagues who have completed their Bachelors' degree in Social Work (BSW) and those with a Masters' degree in Social Work (MSW) who are not licensed. Each of those social workers has studied the rigorous coursework that has included human behavior, cultural differences and customs, and learned skills for assisting individuals, families, communities, and society as a whole. And each is expected to be committed to and follow the NASW Code of Ethics.

It is highly important to restrict the use of the title "social worker" to only those of us who have received the coursework and ethical foundation of the social work profession. Practice by individuals who are "social workers" in name only reflects badly on the entire social work profession and lacks our ethics. There are 35 other states which already have such title protection on their legislative books.

I beseech you to substitute the language that was submitted by the Connecticut Chapter of NASW and then pass the resulting "An Act Concerning Social Workers", to protect all CT social workers who have learned and been trained to provide ethical and competent social work services of this profession. Thank you!

Herbert Jay Rosenfield, LCSW, ACSW, BCD, CSSW

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